

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method for clearing a re-imageable printing form, which comprises:

initially washing ink from the printing form; and

after washing the printing form, treating the printing form with a liquid clearing medium selected from the group consisting of an alkali and a base in a non-abrasive manner, irreversibly clearing all image information on a surface of the printing form.

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method according to claim 3, which includes treating the printing form with ultrasound during the treatment thereof with the liquid clearing medium.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method according to claim 3, which includes exposing the printing form to the effects of a heat source during the treatment thereof with the liquid clearing medium.

Claim 7 (original): The method according to claim 6, which includes providing at least one of an infrared laser, at least one heat emitter and at least one hot-air blower as the heat source.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6, which includes exposing the printing form to higher than normal atmospheric pressure during the treatment with the liquid clearing medium.

Claim 9 - 11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method according to claim 3, which includes applying the liquid clearing medium to the printing form from at least one sprayer.

Claims 13-14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to claim 3, which includes performing the steps thereof in one of a printing machine and a clearing device outside a printing machine.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A device for clearing a re-imageable printing form, comprising:

a device for initially washing ink from the printing form; and

a device configured for, after the printing form being washed, applying liquid clearing medium selected from the group consisting of an alkali and a base to the

printing form in a non-abrasive manner, irreversibly clearing all image information on a surface of the printing form.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A device for clearing a re-imageable printing form washed free of ink, comprising a device for applying liquid clearing medium selected from the group consisting of an alkali and a base to the ink-free printing form in a non-abrasive manner, irreversibly clearing all image information on a surface of the printing form.

Claims 18-19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (previously presented): The device for clearing a printing form according to claim 16, including an ultrasound source for irradiating the printing form with ultrasound.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The device for clearing a printing form according to claim 16, including a heat source for heating the printing form.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The device for clearing a printing form according to claim 21, wherein said heat source is at least one of an infrared laser, at least one heat emitter, and at least one hot-air blower.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The device for clearing a printing form according to claim 21, including a device for generating higher than normal atmospheric pressure in the environment of the printing form.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The device for clearing a printing form according to claim 16, wherein said device for applying liquid clearing medium to the printing form is a sprayer.

Claim 25 (canceled).

Claim 26 (currently amended): A printing machine having a device for clearing a re-imageable printing form, comprising:

a device for initially washing ink from the printing form; and

a device for, after the printing form being washed, applying liquid clearing medium selected from the group consisting of an alkali and a base to the printing form in a non-abrasive manner, irreversibly clearing all image information on a surface of the printing form.